Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 DODE-00 /060 R

DRAFTED BY OSD/ISA:JTYLER:MEM
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------062207 110321Z /61

O P 110043Z NOV 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
INFO USNMR SHAPE BE PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
USLO SACLANT NORFOLK VA PRIORITY
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA PRIORITY

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HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: DRAFT OUTLINE FOR LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM FINAL REPORTS

REFS: A. USNATO 10821, DTG 021610Z NOV 77; B. USNATO 11116, DTG 091802Z NOV 77

1. THE FORMAT REPORTED IN US MISSION NATO 10821 APPEARS TO ASK FOR MUCH OF THE RIGHT INFORMATION BUT IT DOES NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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PROVIDE ADEQUATE GUIDANCE TO INSURE THAT ALL TASK FORCES WILL REPORT INFORMATION, PARTICULARLY COST DATA, ON A CONSISTENT BASIS. WHILE WE DON'T INSIST ON AN EXTREMELY RIGID FORMAT FOR THE ENTIRE REPORT, WE DO FEEL IT IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT ALL TASK FORCES USE A CONSISTENT AND REASONABLY DETAILED FORMAT IN REPORTING COST IMPLICATIONS. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL MAKE IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT

TO AGGREGATE AND MAKE COMPARISONS AMONG THE PROGRAMS OF ALL OF THE TASK FORCES OR TO GET A HANDLE ON THE ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY OF THE PROGRAMS. WE PROPOSE (1) THAT THE SPREAD SHEET BE REVISED AS INDICATED IN PARAGRAPH 2, BELOW, AND (2) THAT THE EWG SPECIFY THAT THE SPREAD SHEET FORMAT IS QTE MANDATORY UNQTE NOT QTE FOR GUIDANCE ONLY UNQTE. IN ADDITION WE HAVE A FEW OTHER CHANGES FOR THE OVERALL FORMAT.

2. WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE CHANGES TO THE SPREAD SHEET AS INDICATED BELOW:

A. WE BELIEVE THE SPREAD SHEET TIMEFRAME SHOULD COVER A 15-YEAR TIME SPAN -- 1979 THROUGH 1993. IN ADDITION TO DISPLAYING COST DATA ON A YEAR-BY-YEAR BASIS IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO HAVE SEVERAL ADDITIONAL COLUMNS ON THE RIGHT HAND SIDE OF THE PAGE (OR ON A SEPARATE PAGE OF THE SPREAD SHEET) THAT WOULD SUMMARIZE COSTS BY FIVE-YEAR SEGMENTS (I.E., 1979-1983, 1984-1988, 1989-1993) AS WELL AS SHOW TOTAL COST FOR THE ENTIRE 1979-1993 PERIOD.

B. THE SPREAD SHEET SHOULD SHOW (1) REQUIRED FUNDING NOT YET PROGRAMMED (I.E., FUNDING NOT YET INCLUDED IN PROJECTED COUNTRY DEFENSE SPENDING PLANS) AS WELL AS (2) TOTAL FUNDING. THIS COULD BE HANDLED BY SHOWING (FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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EACH SPECIFIC PROGRAM OR PROGRAM ELEMENT) TOTAL REQUIRED FUNDING ON ONE LINE AND FUNDING NOT YET PROGRAMMED ON A SEPARATE LINE, IMMEDIATELY BELOW, PERHAPS IN PARENTHESES. AS WE HAVE INDICATED PREVIOUSLY, INFORMATION ON COSTS NOT YET PROGRAMMED WILL BE MOST IMPORTANT IN ASSESSING THE ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY OF TASK FORCE PROGRAMS.

- C. WE RECOMMEND THAT ONE SPREAD SHEET BE USED TO IDENTIFY (BY SPECIFIC PROGRAM AND/OR PROGRAM ELEMENT) AGGREGATED COSTS FOR ALL NATIONS AND NATO AGENCIES COMBINED AND THAT A SEPARATE SHEET BE USED TO SHOW THESE COSTS ON A COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY (AND NATO AGENCY) BASIS.
- D. TO AVOID POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDINGS, WE URGE THAT THE SPREAD SHEET INCLUDE CLEAR AND REASONABLY DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING IN THE BLANKS, TO INCLUDE COSTING GUIDELINES (1977 CONSTANT PRICES, ETC.).
- E. WE SEE LITTLE UTILITY IN DISPLAYING QTE CUMULATIVE COSTS BY YEAR, UNQTE;THUS RECOMMEND THAT QTE NOTE 2 UNQTE BE DELETED.

- 3. THE FORMAT SHOULD ASK EACH TASK FORCE DIRECTOR TO RANK IN ORDER OF PRIORITY ALL OF THE SPECIFIC PROGRAMS UNDER HIS JURISDICTION.
- 4. SOME OF THE TERMS AND STATEMENTS IN THE IS DRAFT FORMAT NEED TO BE DEFINED OR SPELLED OUT MORE PRECISELY (AND/OR EXPLAINED BY USE OF EXAMPLES). FOR EXAMPLE, WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE DEFINITION AND/OR EXAMPLES OF QTE MAIN ACTION AREAS, UNQTE QTE SPECIFIC PROGRAMS UNQTE AND QTE PROGRAM ELEMENTS. UNQTE. ALSO IT IS NOT CLEAR TO US

HOW QTE PROGRAM SCHEDULES UNQTE (THIRD DOUBLE TICK UNDER QTE IMPLEMENTATION AND FUTURE ACTION UNQTE) DIFFERS FROM QTE MAIN TIME PHASES UNQTE (SEVENTH DOUBLE TICK UNDER UNCLASSIFIED

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QTE SPECIFIC PROGRAMS UNQTE).

- 5. WE NEED TO INSURE THAT FORMAT INSTRUCTIONS ARE CAREFULLY THOUGHT OUT AND CLEARLY EXPLAINED. THERE WILL BE PRECIOUS LITTLE TIME AFTER 1 MARCH JUST TO ANALYZE THE TASK FORCE REPORTS, MUCH LESS TO TRY TO SORT OUT PROBLEMS AND INCONSISTENCIES RESULTING FROM MISINTERPRETATION OF FORMAT INSTRUCTIONS. ACCORDINGLY, MISSION SHOULD FORESTALL ANY ATTEMPT BY EWG TO OBTAIN FINAL DECISION ON FORMAT UNTIL WE HAVE HAD ADEQUATE TIME TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON THE REVISED DRAFT, WHICH SHOULD BE SUBJECT OF A SECOND EWG MEETING, PROBABLY IN EARLY DECEMBER.
- 6. IN SUMMARY, WE SEE IT AS ESSENTIAL THAT EACH NATION BE ABLE TO SEE CLEARLY IN EACH PROGRAM WHAT IT IS BEING ASKED TO DO AND WHAT IT IS BEING ASKED TO AGREE THAT A NATO AGENCY SHOULD DO. SIMILARLY, WE SEE IT AS ESSENTIAL THAT THE EWG, THE MC, AND NATIONAL STAFFS BE ABLE TO SEE CLEARLY THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS, AS A BASIS FOR ANY NECESSARY ANALYSIS.
- 7. REF B JUST RECEIVED. WE WILL PROVIDE GUIDANCE REQUESTED IN PARAS 4(A) AND (B) SEPTEL.

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Margaret P. Grafeld	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: REPORTS, DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES, MILITARY PLANS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 11-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE269647
Document Source: COPE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: JTYLER:MEM Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770416-0691

Format: TEL From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771169/aaaacgty.tel

Line Count: 161 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: f101121c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ORIGIN EUR

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 USNATO 10821, 77 USNATO 11116

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 24-Aug-2004 12:00:00 am Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 622170 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: DRAFT OUTLINE FOR LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM FINAL REPORTS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

To: USNATO Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f101121c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009